

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract and replace with the following:

[Para 27] A disposable sanitary sheath for a shopping cart handle featuring a sheet wrappable about ~~said~~ the handle, ~~said sheet~~ having a length and width so as to cover at least the portion of ~~said~~ the handle coming into contact with a user's hands, an adhesive strip positioned about one side of a surface of ~~said~~ the sheet for securing the ~~said~~ sheet about the ~~said~~ handle, a perforated pull-away strip disposed along the length of the ~~said~~ sheet, and a pull tab accommodated on the ~~said~~ pull-away strip. Other embodiments include disposable sanitary sheaths for shopping cart handles with a sheet wrappable about the ~~said~~ handle wherein the ~~said~~ sheet is made of one of the following materials: paper, polyethylene, rubber, polypropylene, vinyl, mylar, Teflon, polycarbonate, Kynar, Uvex, butyrate, F.E.P. (tetrafluorethylenepolypropylene,) and polyester. The sheath may also be made up of two or more sheaths that are used in conjunction to cover one or more portions of a handle. Additionally, a sanitizing compound such as an antibacterial agent can be applied to the sheath.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification and replace with the following:

CROSS-REFERENCES TO OTHER RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

~~[Para-1]~~ Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

~~[Para-2]~~ Not Applicable.

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING, A TABLE, OR A COMPUTER PROGRAM

LISTING COMPACT DISK APPENDIX

~~[Para-3]~~ Not Applicable.

Heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

~~[Para-4]~~ 1. Field of the Invention

~~[Para-5]~~ The present invention relates to sanitary sheaths for use with shopping carts. More specifically, this invention relates to improvements in sanitary sheaths for carts and baskets which are both more convenient to place on a cart handle for use and easier to remove after use than previously known handle sheaths.

~~[Para-6]~~ 2. Description of Related Art

~~[Para-7]~~ Shopping carts and baskets are used regularly to help shoppers carry items in and around stores. Because shopping cart handles are seldom cleaned, they are likely to have amounts of germs, micro-organisms, mildew, insects, viruses and other harmful substances which can be transmitted

through physical contact from one user to the next. Disposable shopping cart handle sheaths give shoppers and other cart or basket users the ability to avoid this unsanitary and undesirable physical contact with the unsanitized handles.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[Para-8] The present invention relates generally to disposable sanitary sheaths for shopping cart handles. One embodiment of the claimed subject matter includes a disposable sanitary sheath for a shopping cart handle comprising a sheet wrappable about said handle, said sheet having a length and width so as to cover at least the portion of said handle coming into contact with a user's hands, an adhesive strip positioned about one side of a surface of said sheet for securing said sheet about said handle, a perforated pull-away strip disposed along the length of said sheet, and a pull tab accommodated on said pull-away strip. Other embodiments include disposable sanitary sheaths for shopping cart handles with a sheet wrappable about said handle wherein said sheet is constructed of a material from the following group: paper, polyethylene, rubber, polypropylene, vinyl, mylar, Teflon, polycarbonate, Kynar, Uvex, butyrate, F.E.P. (tetrafluorethylenepolypropylene) and polyester.

[Para-9] Having thus described several embodiments directed to the claimed subject

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

~~{Para-10}~~ The above and other objects, advantages and features of the claimed subject matter will be more readily apparent from the following description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

~~{Para-11}~~ FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the claimed subject matter shown as used with a shopping cart;

~~{Para-12}~~ FIG. 2 is a side perspective view of an embodiment of the claimed subject matter shown as used with a shopping cart;

~~{Para-13}~~ FIG. 3 is a top perspective view illustrating an embodiment of the claimed subject matter as used on a shopping cart;

~~{Para-14}~~ FIG. 4 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the claimed subject matter;

~~{Para-15}~~ FIG. 5 is a top view of an embodiment of the claimed subject matter; and

~~{Para-16}~~ FIG. 6 is a side view of an embodiment of the claimed subject matter.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

~~{Para-17}~~ Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the views, FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 illustrate a shopping cart 10 with an embodiment of the sanitary shopping cart handle sheath that is designated generally by the numeral 12.

~~{Para-18}~~ Shopping cart 10 as illustrated and described herein is a typical

commercially available shopping cart, but the cart 10 can be any type of known cart constructed with one or more handles 16. The shopping cart handle 16 may be tubular, rectangular or any other suitable shape and it may include other portions such as a handle assembly made up of a substantially horizontal tubular handle which itself may have one or more grips. Cart 10 includes a basket portion having a bottom and a plurality of sides coupled thereto and extending upwardly therefrom, with one or more of the areas in shopping cart 10, such as the basket portion, used for storing articles. Cart 10 also includes a plurality of wheels coupled to the bottom of the cart 10 for transporting purposes.

~~[Para-19]~~ In one embodiment, sanitary sheath 12 is constructed of a sheet 14

~~[Para-20]~~ Similarly, in a wire basket embodiment, not shown, sanitary sheath 12 can be used to cover a portion of the wire basket handle or the entire wire basket handle. In a similar fashion to the shopping cart handle 16, sheet 14 can be constructed to cover one or more portions of a wire basket handle to form one or more corresponding barriers. The wire basket can be any commercially available transportable shopping basket with metal, wire, plastic, natural fiber, or any other suitable type of carrying handles that are used for carrying a basket.

~~[Para-21]~~ FIG. 4 illustrates perspective view of sheath 12 as it would be formed when attached to a handle of a shopping cart. A portion of the bottom face or side of sheet 14 has adhesive applied thereon so that the top face can

be wrapped around and fastened to the bottom face. The adhesive used to secure the sheet 14 in place around handle 16 can be a tear-away adhesive or a coating of a strip of stickum which can be fixedly secured by manual pressure. FIG 4. also shows perforated pull away strip 18 accommodated on the top of sheath 12.

[Para-22] FIG. 5 illustrates a top view and FIG. 6 illustrated a side view of a sheath 12 with the perforated pull away strip 18 on the top of sheath 12 and with the pull-tab 20 accommodated on the pull away strip 18. The size and shape of the perforated pull away strip 18 may be altered to conform to the various configurations of handle 16. Similarly, the thickness of both sheet 14 and the perforated pull away strip 18 can be varied. For instance, in one embodiment, sheet 14 and/or the perforated pull away strip 18 have a thickness equal to or less than 1/16 of one inch. Sheet 14 and the perforated pull away strip 18 can be constructed of one or more materials from the following group: paper, polyethylene, rubber, polypropylene, vinyl, mylar, Teflon, polycarbonate, Kynar, Uvex, butyrate, F.E.P.

(tetrafluorethylenepolypropylene) and polyester.

[Para-24] The sanitary sheaths 12 can be stored in multiples to allow easy distribution and access by users such as in a dispensing container. Users could receive individually dispensed sheaths 12 from the dispenser for application by the user to a cart or a basket. The sheaths 12 may also be dispensed from a roll wherein they are attached together, separated by an additional perforated

section, similar to other perforated plastic produce bags found on rolls in supermarkets.

~~{Para-25}~~ After a shopping cart has been used, the shopper or an employee of the store can easily remove the sanitary sheath 12 by pulling the perforated tear away strip 18 using pull-tab 20. This pull-tab 20 allows the tear away strip 18 to be removed from sheet 14, allowing the sheet to fall away from handle 16 and be disposed of.

~~{Para-26}~~ While the present invention has been illustrated and described by means of specific embodiments and alternatives, it is to be understood that numerous changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Therefore, it should be understood that the invention is not to be limited in any way except in accordance with the appended claims and their equivalents.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 1}~~ A disposable sanitary sheath for a shopping cart handle comprising:

a sheet wrappable about said handle;

said sheet having a length and width so as to cover at least the portion of said handle coming into contact with a user's hands;

an adhesive strip positioned about one side of a surface of said sheet for securing said sheet about said handle;

a perforated pull-away strip disposed along the length of said sheet; and

a pull tab accommodated on said pull-away strip.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 2}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of polyethylene.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 3}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of rubber.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 4}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of polypropylene.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 5}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of vinyl.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 6}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of mylar.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 7}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of Teflon.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 8}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of polycarbonate.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 9}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of Kynar.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 10}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of Uvex.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 11}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of Butyrate.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 12}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of F.E.P. (tetrafluorethylenepерfluorpropylene).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 13}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of polyester.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 14}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of paper.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 15}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein said sheet is made of a plurality of sheets.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 16}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein two or more sheaths are be used in conjunction to cover one or more portions of said handle.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~{Claim 17}~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 1 wherein a sanitizing compound is applied to the sheath ~~12~~.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[Claim 18]~~ A sanitary sheath of claim 17 wherein the sanitizing compound is an antibacterial agent.